

GUIDANCE FOR WELLFLEET'S 2022 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Hello Voters,

Wellfleet's Special Town Meeting is another occasion when we fulfill our role as citizen-legislators. Though many of us have been vaccinated and boosted, the consensus among Town leaders is again not to ask voters to attend an indoor meeting. We will use the success of the last two outdoor meetings as a guide for our upcoming Special Town Meeting. Town staff have again worked together to set conditions that will allow us to meet and conduct business as safely as possible

The Special Town Meeting will begin at 10 A.M on Saturday, September 10, 2022 on the Elementary School ballfield. Check-in will open 45 minutes earlier at 9:15 A.M.

There are three rain dates for this meeting: Sunday, September 11, Saturday, September 17, and Sunday, September 18. If the meeting needs to be postponed because of rain, notice will be provided via Town's website, the Town's phone alert system, and local radio stations.

With the safety of voters and town officials as our goal, here's what you can expect when you come to Town Meeting.

PLAN SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF HEALTH REGULATIONS CHANGE

PARKING:

The parking spaces facing the ballfield are reserved for handicapped parking.

MASKS:

Masks are optional, and to be worn at the discretion of individual voters. If you have not yet been fully vaccinated, it is strongly recommended that you wear a mask for your own protection and to protect other voters.

ARRIVAL & SCREENING:

The check-in process will begin at 9:15 AM. The check-in line will be along the fence on the outside of the ballfield. Please maintain a safe distance while in line. If you attend with other members of your household, please stay together throughout the arrival and check-in process.

If you have any COVID symptoms, or if feel you may have a fever, we ask that you not attend the meeting for the safety of your fellow voters.

CHECK-IN:

When you approach the entrance to the ballfield, you will be directed to one of the registrars. All registration tables will accept all voters; you do not need to go to a specific table based on your last name.

Only voters will be admitted to the ballfield. There will be a separate seating area outside the ballfield for non-voters, who will be asked to maintain a safe distance from others at all times. This restriction does not apply to town officials who are non-voters but are required by our charter to attend Town Meeting.

Children may accompany parents who are voters. Children must stay with their parents at all times, remain distanced from other meeting participants, and not distract voters from the business of the meeting. There is no provision for childcare at this meeting.

SEATING:

After you have been checked in you may sit wherever you like. Seats will be arranged singly or in pairs and have been placed to maintain a distance between voters. Once you are seated, we ask you remain seated for the duration of the meeting unless you are speaking in debate or need to use the restrooms. Please cooperate with the volunteers.

There will be some seats under a tent for shelter from the sun, but these should be reserved for older, more vulnerable voters. A special seating area is reserved for those with limited mobility. Depending on attendance, there will likely not be enough seats under the tent for everyone, so you should plan on bringing a hat and sunscreen.

You may bring your own beach chairs or a blanket, but please set them up at least 6 feet away from others. There will be ample room at the rear of the tented area in the outfield area to set up your own chairs or blankets, and the audio system will allow voters will to hear the proceedings from anywhere on the ballfield.

BATHROOMS:

Porta-potties, hand wash stations and hand sanitizer will be available at the meeting.

NO SMOKING, NO AEROSOL INSECT REPELLENTS OR SUNSCREENS:

No smoking is allowed on the ballfield. Smoking is allowed only on the paved surfaces at least 100 feet away from any seating or check-in areas.

If you bring insect repellent or sunscreen, it must be a liquid or wipe-on type. **Absolutely no aerosol spray insect repellent or sunscreen will be allowed within the ballfield area.**

NO POLITICAL BUTTONS, CLOTHING OR CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Town Meeting is a non-partisan legislative body. No political buttons, clothing with political or campaign slogans, or campaign signs are permitted within the Town Meeting venue. Any political activity must take place outside the Town Meeting (in this case, outside of the ballfield fence) and must not impede voters checking in or interfere with the meeting in any way.

FOOD AND DRINK:

You may bring your own snacks and beverages, but no alcoholic beverages will be allowed. To reduce the use of disposable containers, please bring your own drinking water if possible. There will be some canned drinking water available for distribution, courtesy of the Wellfleet Marketplace and the Wellfleet Recycling Committee.

MOTIONS, TOWN REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS:

For this meeting, there will be no PowerPoint presentations. Each voter will be given a booklet with the wording of the motions that are expected to be made under each article. There will also be copies of the annual town report available, along with any handouts related to individual articles.

Presenters of articles and others who wish to make presentations may prepare informational handouts for distribution to the voters. **All handouts are strictly limited to one page, double-sided, and should be sent to Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant (rebekah.eldridge@wellfleet-ma.gov) before Friday, September 2 if possible, and absolutely no later than Tuesday, September 6.**

QUORUM:

Because the declared state of emergency for Massachusetts has ended, the quorum for this Annual Town Meeting will return to our normal requirement of 6% of registered voters. The meeting will begin promptly as soon as a quorum has been achieved. Voters are strongly encouraged to come early and complete the screening and check-in process so the meeting can begin on time at 10 A.M.

DEBATE:

If you wish to speak during the meeting, please go to one of the microphone locations and wait to be recognized. If you are unable or uncomfortable moving to one of the microphones, a volunteer “microphone wrangler” will bring a microphone to your location once you have been recognized. Please identify yourself clearly once recognized and before speaking, as the Moderator may not be able recognize you by name because of distance and masking.

VOTING:

When you check in, you will be given a brightly colored piece of paper. This will be your voter card for this meeting. Votes will be taken by a show of cards held in the air. If the outcome of a vote cannot be determined by the Moderator by this method, there will be a counted vote taken.

SOUND SYSTEM, RECORDING AND FM BROADCAST:

The sound system for this meeting has been designed to make sure that all voters can follow the proceedings and participate in the meeting no matter where they're seated on the ballfield. There will be no visual slide presentations, so there should be no concern about visibility from any of the seating areas.

The meeting will be video recorded for later viewing by those unable to attend.

LEAVING THE MEETING:

Please try to stay for the duration of the meeting to minimize foot traffic that would disrupt the meeting and bring you too close to other voters.

After the Town Meeting is dissolved, voters are asked to disperse in a timely and orderly manner in order to maintain social distancing. If you are able to carry your chair to the dugout near the check-in stations, it will be appreciated.

As we discovered at our last two outdoor meetings, Wellfleet voters are adaptable and able to conduct the Town's business effectively and efficiently regardless of the venue. When we meet on September 10, I ask you all again to be patient, maintain your good humor, and respect one another as we come together for the 2022 Special Town Meeting.

Dan Silverman
Wellfleet Town Moderator